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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Weed pull scheduled for Mount Sentinel" (1999). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 16168.
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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 14, 1999

Contact: Marilyn Marler, IPM specialist, Division of Biological Sciences, 243-4184.

WEED PULL SCHEDULED FOR MOUNT SENTINEL

MISSOULA--

As part of the National Public Lands Day celebration on Saturday, Sept. 25, the public is invited to join in pulling noxious weeds and learning about native plant species on Mount Sentinel.

The weed pull will begin at 10 a.m. at the M Trailhead and will continue to 1 p.m. It will be led by Marilyn Marler, UM's noxious weed coordinator, and Vicki Watson, environmental studies professor.

"Noxious weeds are the biggest ecological problem facing Mount Sentinel's plant and animal wildlife," Marler said. "Mount Sentinel is one of the best-loved hiking trails in the area, and this is an opportunity for folks to get involved in the restoration of the mountain's grasslands."

National Public Lands Day was created as a way for people to give something back to their favorite public recreational areas, Marler said. This is the first year a Mount Sentinel weed pull has been scheduled for Public Lands Day.

"Tremendous progress was made at the Earth Day weed pull last April," Marler said.

An opportunity for long-term stewardship and restoration of Mount Sentinel is provided by the Adopt-a-Switchback program. Interested groups may call Marler at 243-6642 for more information about adopting a switchback on the M Trail.

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MM/ps
Local
WeedPull.rl